

How To Make A Rain Barrel

List of Materials

The Barrel



The barrel should be food grade with a removable lid for cleaning and assembling, if possible. Barrels come in various sizes with the most common being 55 gallons. Something as thin as a Rubbermaid trash can might work but not quite as well.

The Spigot & Hardware



You'll need a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose bib spigot ($\frac{1}{2}$ " will work too but with smaller locknut and washer). These have male threads at one end to screw into the barrel and at the other to attach a standard size hose. You'll also need a $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanized locknut (if your barrel has a removable lid), a rubber washer with a 1" inner diameter, Teflon tape, superglue and silicone.

The Overflow Valve & Hardware

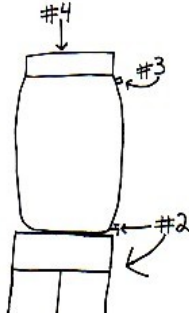


You'll need a $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " brass overflow valve which, like the spigot, has male threads on either end with the outer end able to connect with the female end of a hose (plastic will work too). You'll also need another $\frac{3}{4}$ " locknut, 1" i.d. rubber washer, Teflon tape, superglue, and silicone.

Tools

- Electric Drill (preferably not cordless)
- 1" hole saw or drill bit (use $\frac{15}{16}$ " for very secure fit)
- 4" hole saw or jig saw
- Utility knife
- Needle nose pliers or wrench
- Screen for top filter

Making Your Very Own Rain Barrel



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1. Clean and rinse your food grade container with a mild soap and water (rainwater if you've got any yet)
2. Drill a 1" hole with your hole saw or drill bit, just off the bottom of the container for the spigot assembly. This maximizes easy water use. It's designed to be used with a stand. Four concrete blocks on a firm, level surface works well. ** Note: If you are unable to reach down to the inside bottom of the barrel, you'll want to use a 15/16" bit for a snug fit and use the Modifications after Step 6.**
3. Drill a 1" hole an inch or so below the rim for your overflow valve assembly. This hole can go anywhere around the barrel at that latitude. Keep in mind: don't put it too close to the top (overflow) or too low (lose water storage). It's recommended that you put the hole 1" to 1 1/2" from the top. Please note: if you've got a 2,000 square foot roof and those large downspouts, you may want to get a larger overflow valve.
4. Use the 4" hole saw or jig saw to put a hole in the top of your barrel for water to come in.
5. Use a utility knife to clean scraps around holes.
6. Wrap the barrel end of the spigot three times around with Teflon tape and then screw in the spigot squarely. It should go by hand.

Modifications: If your barrel does **not have a removable lid, place the washer on the spigot; wrap the end of the spigot 3 times with Teflon tape; put strong glue on the side of the washer facing the barrel; screw the spigot in squarely. It will fit **very** snugly. Omit Steps 7 & 8.*
7. Take the rubber washer and glue the surface of one side with strong glue and reach into the barrel and work it over the threads until it is flush with the barrel.
8. Screw on the locknut and finish tightening by turning the spigot while holding the locknut with a wrench or needle nose pliers. You may need a second person to turn while you hold or vice versa).
9. Wrap the longer end of the overflow valve with Teflon tape three times and then screw it into the overflow hole by hand or by using a wrench or pliers if necessary. The outside male threads should be able to connect with a standard size hose to divert the overflow.

10. Repeat #7
11. Screw on the locknut as far as possible by hand, then hold locknut while tightening overflow valve with pliers/wrench until it flies out of your hand or is very tight.
12. Take a tube of all-purpose silicone "goop" and apply a bead where overflow valve meets the outside of the barrel. Note: This is an added sealant. It may not even be necessary.
13. Take a tube of all-purpose silicone "goop" and apply where the spigot meets the barrel. Follow drying time directions from the silicone tube.
14. To keep mosquitoes and debris out of your rain barrel, attach a piece of nylon window screening over the hole. Attach with screws and washers.

Now, you're ready to install!

Cut downspout above the height of the barrel and stand/blocks. Align top hole with downspout. You may want to attach a curved piece of spout to make alignment easier. Make sure spigot is facing away from the building for easy access.